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A Reason

Ann Cashmen
Iowa State University

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A REASON

ANN CASHMEN

Why are you here

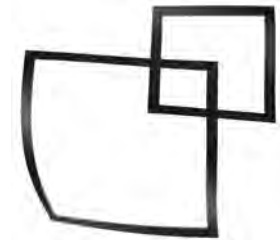
But really
Why are you here
What is your purpose
How are you making a difference in the world we live in

Such thoughts can be too overwhelming for us designers to answer
For what we are doing doesn't always seem to be justified by others
In fact
As designers
We are often seen as excessively unnecessary
We become the dreamers who can't build our own dreams
Our ideas seem too farfetched to actually become part of the built environment
The once seemingly prestige name that being an architect had now crumbles
under the expanded requirements and limitations architects must work with in
today's world
Being the architect we want to be now seems like a pipe dream
And the negativity keeps growing
Threatening to drown our spirits over the years
We begin to feel trapped
That we will never be able to do what we want to do
The reason for why we are here

So then why are we here

There is a reason
A reason for the sleepless nights
A reason for the agony
A reason for the obsession
We just have to remember why
Sometimes it's truly the simple things that we need to remember again

What I remember as a child was the feeling of excitement when I would have a
new space to explore
I would wander around hallways with my hands on the walls until I would find
the smooth metal doorknob to turn and release yet a new space to investigate





What was it that I was trying to find
I knew and yet I didn't know at the same time
What I knew was that I was searching for something that could insight an
emotional response
I wanted to find something beautiful
Something shocking
I was in search to find something beyond the mundane
I was the child running through buildings trying to find something
Something that would spark an interest
Something that would cause me to feel

What we tend not to realize
As designers
As architects
Is that the skills we need to be learning are beyond just the technical
That architecture is a way of thinking
Seeing
Creating
Which really has only the limits you put on yourself
To fully immerse ourselves in our architecture learning experiences
We cannot settle for the safe route
We are here to challenge the limits put on ourselves
We have to develop our way of thinking so that what we produce becomes
something truly worth producing
We are here because our minds tend to work differently in that we see
possibility of experiences through physical form
We are here to make something beautiful
Something worth lasting
Without us
Without designers
Some of the simple joys in life would cease to exist
To find something to feel
That I think is worth living for

Limitless